Fire accident on tanker Wand Hari'

3985. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SUR FACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Bombay Edition of the Times of India dated the 3rd July, 1992 under the caption 'Fire abroad ship, four missing';

(b) whether it is a fact that an accident had occured recently on Board a tanker 'Nand Hari' belonging to Essar Shipping involving death of four members of the crew and injury to several others;

(c) whether any inquiry has been con-conducted into the matter as required under the Merchant Shipping Act;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the above tanker was sea worthy at the time of accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The accident resulted in loss of four, lives and injury to four mem. bers of the crew,

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Prima facie, the vessel was carry ing the necessary statutory certificates at the time of accident. However, the full facts will be known after the Prelimi nary enquiry.

Inquiry into explosion on 'Nand Hari' tanker

3986. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SUR FACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that one Nautical Advisor, who recently retired from Government service, or has joined Essar Shipping in contravention of Govenrment Servants Conduct and Service Rules and

(to) if so, what steps Govermmnet propose to take to ensure an impartial outcome of the enquiry in the recent explosion that occured on Board of a tanker 'Nand Hari' belonging to the Essar Shipping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANS PORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Government is not aware that the Nautical Advisor, who retired recently from Government service, is in the pay roll of M/s. Essar Shipping. It has, however, been ascertained from, the company that his advice is sought by them as a consultant as and when necessary in the course of business.

(b) The preliminary enquiry is being conducted by Principal Officer, a senior officer in Merchantile Marine Department, and surveyors working under him, in exercise of powers under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. There are adequate guidelines for conducting such enquiries.

Commercial utilization of surplus land of Calcutta Port Trust

3987. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme to commer-cailly utilise surplus land belonging to the Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) in the prime areas in Calcutta has received an encouraging response from the Centra!/ State Governments, P.S.Us, and NR.Is. etc.; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In B.B.D. Bag area about 8.5 lakhs sq. ft. of built up accomodation has been booked by Central, State Govts, and Public Sector Under-takings, Financial Institutions and Calcutta Stock Exchange. At Alipore Boat Canal area about 6.75 lakhs aq. ft. has been booked by a number of Public Sector

Undertakings viz. Coal India Ltd., SAIL, GRSE and other Financial Institutions for office and residential' purposes.

N.R.Is. have booked 10 Nos. flats for about 20 thousands sq. fts at Alipore Boat Canal area. Govt, of West Bengal have also requested for 500 flats for distribution among the MIG & LIG applicants at subsidised cost. Some State Governments/Central Government organisations/ Ports have also rtequested to reserve space for them.

Funds for National High Ways in Maharashtra

3988. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for strengthening bridges and providing byepass on National High Ways on priority basis;

(b) if so, the financal provisions make against the total requirement for such purposes in Maharasthra during the Eighth Five Year Plan, National Highway wise:

(c) the provision of funds for maintenance of National Highways, in Maharashtra for the next five years; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to reduce rate of accidents in Maharashtra on National Highways and provide adequate security measures on National Highways in Mahacashtra along with other facility/amenities to be provided on National highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Development of, National Highways including strengthening of bridges and providing bypasses is a continuous activity and improvement works are taken up keeping in view the existing condition of the National Highways, traffic intensity, interse priority and the availability of funds. Against the projected requirement of Rs. 7830 crores for the 8th Plan under the Central Sector/Centrally sponsored schemes including National Highways ,the Planning Commission has agreed to an outlay of Rs. 2600 crows. Out of this an outlay of Rs. 2460 crores is available for National Highways; major portion of this outlay would be utilised for completion of on-going schemes on the existing National Highways. Doe to Paucity of funds and large number of development works needing to be taken up in different States including Maharashtra, the Programme for development works in 8th Plan is still to be chalked out in consultation with lite Planning Commission.

(c) The provision of funds for maintenance of National Highways is a non-Plan activity and funds are provided on year to year basis, and as such it is not possible to indicate amount likely to be provided during 8th Plan. For the year 1992. 93. an allocation of Rs. 1348 lakhs has been made for Maharashtra-

(d) Steps taken/being taken by the Central Government and State Government to reduce accidents on National Highways in the country including those in Maharashtra include engineering, regulatory, enforcement and educational measures. As regards, facilities/amenities, truck parking lay byes and passenger oriented wayside facilities are being provided on National Highways in Maharashtra.

Plight of commuters due to Higher properton of white and green line buses.

3989. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 313 given in Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 92 and state:

fa) the number of ordinary buses plying on each of tht routes where White Line buses are also plying;

(b) the over all proportion of ordinary buses, Green Line buses and White Line buses operating in Delhi; ,

(c) whether Government are aware of the Commuter's plight due to higher proportion of White One and Green Line buses as compared to ordinary buses; and